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the war of 1812, and on the effects of "letting other nations experiment for us" during the quarter-century following the Civil War, when modern war vessels were being developed. The most radical feature of the book is a recommendation that the Naval Academy be made free to all who can pass its examination, in the hope of manning our ships with its graduates and creating an efficient naval reserve.

RAYMOND G. GETTELL.

*Trinity College.*

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**Urussov, Prince Serge D.** *Memoirs of a Russian Governor.* Translated by H. Rosenthal. Pp. 181. Price, \$1.50. New York: Harper & Bros., 1908.

Russia has always been a land shrouded in more or less mystery. We have heard of its government system almost entirely from the outside. It remains for Prince Serge Urussov to show us a view from the inside. Because of his experience as governor of the province of Bessarabia he is enabled to give an authentic sketch of the complex workings of the Russian government. Although a staunch patriot, he is not blind to the evils of the administration. The corruption and intrigues of officials, the schemes of the police department, the oppression of the Jews and the peasants are described with a surprising breadth and fairness of judgment.

The discussion of the relations of the Russian government with the Jews forms the most interesting and most important part of the "Memoirs." Prince Urussov became governor of Bessarabia soon after the massacre at Kishinef, he was present at the trial of the ringleaders, and it was due to him that the relations between the Jews and the other Kishinef inhabitants were amicably settled. Hence his discussion of the massacre and the whole Jewish situation has peculiar significance and weight. He shows how the Jews are oppressed, especially in the treatment of Jewish conscripts, in the detailed laws regulating their professions and providing where they shall live. The Jews are required to give a greater quota of men for the army than are the other Russian subjects. Russia makes no effort to educate the Jews. Along with the other oppressive measures are the heavy taxes. Most absurd was the basket tax, a tax levied on meat and fat. Butchers were compelled to separate them and thus reduce the value of merchandise. If all these measures were enforced, the fate of the Russian Jew would be indeed almost insupportable. But the ease with which the police can be bribed has made it possible to evade many of the troublesome laws.

Besides this discussion of the Jews, Prince Urussov says much about the provincial administration, and gives a rather amusing account of Kishinef society, its customs and habits. The "Memoirs" are written in an easy, natural style, and there are a few touches of humor. Because of the light it throws upon the inmost workings of the Russian government it is a book which everyone will read with interest. Mr. Rosenthal, the

translator, has rendered a good service in bringing such a book within our reach.

LURENA WILSON TOWER.

*Philadelphia.*

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**Watson, W. P.** *The Future of Japan.* Pp. xxi, 389. Price, \$3.50. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1907:

In this book the author has attempted a broadly planned synthesis of Japanese political and social psychology. As is generally the case in works of this nature, we must not understand the latter term in too technical a sense. Among the many books on national and race psychology which have been written in the last decade or so, there is not one which confines itself strictly to considerations which may be technically called psychologic. In fact, they often give us merely a general description of institutions and manners. In the present volume, however, intellectual and psychologic factors occupy the center of the stage.

Mr. Watson's book does not shed any new light on the details of Japanese social and political organization, nor is it intended to be an account or summary of Japanese institutions. It is an analysis of present conditions and tendencies implying certain directions of development. Though the work contains no new facts, there is a redistribution of emphasis, which brings out into strong relief certain considerations that have thus far perhaps not been given the weight which they justly deserve.

In discussing the character of the political institutions of Japan, the author dwells chiefly upon their oligarchic nature. The fact that throughout the great period of reform and regeneration, the mass of the people has taken no active part in public affairs, that on the contrary, the destiny of the empire has rested in the hands of a small group of experienced leaders, is very strongly and clearly set forth by the author, with all its secondary consequences. The abyss between the people and their leaders is one of political power rather than of social feeling. The author accounts for the abuse and the frequent attempts at assassination directed against the leaders, the contempt of authority which is at times surprising, through the fact that the leaders have themselves repudiated the older canons of authority.

The author does not recognize any radical psychological difference between the Japanese and the European mind. There may be disagreement as to certain values, but there is an ultimate rational identity. The substance of reason is the same to both. The author's main thesis in this work may be summarized as follows: The leaders of the Japanese regeneration have as their ideal a state free from religion, governed by the unquestioned principles of science and logic. However, while not recognizing any religion, they have been forced to utilize religious emotions in the cult of the emperor and loyalty to the fatherland, which is, in fact, the basis of their authority. On the other hand, they have in the constitution openly invited the public in general to participate in political action.